

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSES OF SOME NEW GENERA OF  
*BLATTIDÆ.*

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The name *Phyllodromia* being occupied in the *Diptera*, it is evident that it cannot stand also for a genus of cockroaches. In 1903, Mr. A. N. Caudell proposed the name *Blattella* as a substitute for *Phyllodromia*, Serville, the type of the genus being the *Blatta germanica* of Linnæus. Most Orthopterists followed his lead, but I confess that I was not of the number. It had long been obvious that the genus *Phyllodromia* of Serville stood in urgent need of revision and sub-division, for it had become nothing but a dumping-ground for species which would not fit into the other genera of the sub-family. As I did not see my way clear to a useful revision of this heterogeneous assemblage of species, there appeared to be no particular object to be gained by substituting *Blattella* for *Phyllodromia* in the case of species which evidently were not strictly congeneric with *germanica*, L. The ill-considered transference of names in zoological nomenclature is a fruitful source of irritation, and many zoologists apparently fail to realize that the substitution of a new name for an old one is not always the only thing needed to reduce confusion to order. If they did realize it they would avoid such scandals as the alteration of the name of a British bat three times in less than that number of years.\*

My refusal to follow Mr. Caudell's lead evoked some rather caustic criticism on the part of that entomologist in the pages of the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, and as the Washington Entomological Society refused to give me a hearing in the pages of their publication, I may perhaps be excused for publishing in this Journal something in the nature of an apology.

As the result of examining the types of several critical species, I have come to the conclusion that *Phyllodromia*, Serv., can be split up into at least six genera, one of which is *Blattella*, Caud., and *Phyllodromia* may now safely be relinquished to the Dipterists.

The following are short diagnoses of *Blattella* and of the new genera :—

*Blattella*, Caud.

Antennæ setaceous. Tegmina and wings exceeding the apex of the abdo-

\* The nomenclature of the Mammalia is, however, in such a state of flux that no man knoweth from one day to another what the recognised scientific names of such well-known animals as, for example, the Chimpanzee and Barbary Ape, really are.

men. Tegmina with longitudinal discoidal sectors. Wings with the anterior part rather narrow, scarcely tapering to the base, ulnar vein simple or bifurcate, very rarely tri-ramose, no apical triangle. Front femora armed on the anterior margin beneath with a complete row of spines, the more distal shorter than the more proximal (Type A). Sexes similar. Ootheca coriaceous, carried by the female with the suture directed to one side.

Type of the genus: *Blatta germanica*, L.

*Neoblattella*, gen. n.

Resembles *Blattella*, but differs in the following points: the anterior part of the wing is broader, especially at the apex, and tapers towards the base; the ulnar vein of the wings is ramose. The apical triangle is inconspicuous or absent.

Type of the genus: *Blatta adspersicollis*, Stål.

*Margattea*, gen. n.

Differs from *Neoblattella* in the armature of the front femora; these are armed on the anterior margin beneath with 3 to 5 strong spines succeeded distally by a close-set row of minute piliform spines (Type B).

Type of the genus: *Blatta ceylonica*, Sauss.

*Supella*, gen. n.

Sexes dissimilar. Male rather narrow and elongate, with the tegmina and wings extending considerably beyond the apex of the abdomen. Tegmina with the discoidal sectors oblique. Wings with the ulnar vein ramose, no apical triangle. Front femora armed after Type A. Female shorter, broader, more convex, resembling certain species of *Ceratinoptera*; tegmina and wings not exceeding the apex of the abdomen; ulnar vein of wing ramose. Ootheca chitinous, carried with the suture directed upwards.

Type of the genus: *Blatta supellectilium*, Serv.

*Eoblatta*, gen. n.

Sexes similar. Form not conspicuously narrow and elongate. Tegmina and wings not exceeding the apex of the abdomen by much. Tegmina with the discoidal sectors oblique. Wings with the anterior part broad, tapering to the base, ulnar vein ramose, apical triangle inconspicuous or absent. Front femora armed after Type B.

Type of the genus: *Blatta notulata*, Stål.

*Chorisoblatta*, gen. n.

Tegmina with the discoidal sectors oblique. Wings with the anterior part broad and tapering to the base, ulnar vein ramose, a large, well-marked apical triangle. Femora armed after Type A or Type B, remaining femora strongly armed.

Type of the genus: *Blatta liturifera*, Stål.

This genus is erected for some of those species which have been included in the genus *Pseudectobia*, Sauss. The type of *Pseudectobia* is *luneli*, Sauss., a small species with the femora very sparsely armed as in the *Ectobiinæ*, and with a small and ill-defined apical triangle. It is a puzzling species, and the only specimen that I have seen is the very shattered type preserved in the Geneva Museum, but it is plainly not congeneric with *liturifera*, Stål, and indeed is more suitably placed in the *Ectobiinæ*. I must own to considerable alteration of opinions about the species of *Pseudectobia*, and I should like to cancel a good deal of that which I have written about the genus. In extenuation I can only plead that the author of the genus, de Saussure, was very vague himself about its limitations, and has brigaded under its heading a number of widely separated species belonging both to the *Ectobiinæ* and to the *Pseudomopinæ* [= *Phyllodromiinæ*]. In a more extended memoir I hope to clear up all the confusion definitely, having now examined all the types I am in a better position to do so than formerly.

A few words are necessary to explain the systematic position of the genera *Liosilpha*, Stål, and *Mareta*, Bol., both of which have by some authors been considered as synonymous with *Phyllodromia*, Serv. *Liosilpha pumicata*, Stål, the type of *Liosilpha*, is a very broad, short, and rather convex species, with the discoidal sectors of the tegmina oblique, the ulnar vein of the wings ramose, no apical triangle, and the front femora armed after Type A, the tegmina and wings do not exceed the apex of the abdomen, and the species has very much the appearance of an *Allacta*. In my opinion the genus can stand.

*Mareta*, Bol., resembles *Eoblatta*, mihi, but the marginal field of the tegmina is much broader, and the front femora are armed on the anterior margin beneath with minute piliform spines only. *Onychostylus*, Bol., is undoubtedly synonymous, the genus was based (as indeed was *Mareta*, too) on secondary sexual characters of the male sex, eminently untrustworthy characters for generic discrimination. An examination of the type, *O. unguiculatus*, Bol., shows that in all other important details of its anatomy it agrees with *Mareta*. A considerable number of species described under *Phyllodromia* I find to be true species of *Mareta*.

7, Clarendon Villas, Oxford:

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